Our Man Hoppe

Dr. Kissinger, Peacemaker

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Washington

THE SELECTION of Dr. Henry Kissinger for the Nobel Peace Prize came as no surprise to observers here. "It is the ultimate justification," as one administration official happily put it, "of our relentless Bombs for Peace Program."

This modest boast was corroborated by the leak to reporters here of the transcript of the Nobel Prize selection committee's top secret deliberations.

Unfortunately, most reporters here are so overburdened with leaks these days that they used the transcript for scratch paper. [illegible] one tattered copy, somewhat chewed on, remains.

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THE TRANSCRIPT [illegible] clearly that there was [illegible] dissension among committee members on who most deserved the prize. One faction held out vigorously for President Sadat of Egypt for his [illegible] efforts to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East."

Another group supported the hereditary [illegible] for his [illegible] in keeping of the peace by selling all the military equipment America gave him to the highest bidder."

But the [illegible] was quickly eliminated when one committee member pointed out his total disqualification for any peace prize. "After all," he said, "whom did the [illegible] ever bomb?"

And the committee was forced to agree [illegible] it was obviously impossible to achieve peace if there wasn't a war going on.

Thus the choice boiled down to Dr. Kissinger, for achieving peace in Vietnam where the fighting is still going on, or President Sadat, for achieving peace in the Middle East where the fighting is still going on.

Dr. Kissinger's case was argued by the eminent logician, Olaf Hjalmar, who termed Dr. Kissinger "the brains behind America's Bombs for Peace Program."

Hjalmar first praised the swiftness with which Dr. Kissinger had acted in the emergency. "Imagine," he said, "he brought peace to Vietnam in only four short years."

Hjalmar then turned to the subtle diplomatic tactics that had produced that achievement. "The secret bombing of Cambodia," he said, "the invasion of that country, the incursion into Laos, the Christmas bombing of Hanoi, the mining of Haiphong — all these, gentlemen, will stand as lasting monuments to man's yearning for peace."

But what carried the day was the fact that America had dropped three times as many bombs on Vietnam as were dropped in all of World War II. "Surely there can be no greater triumph in the cause for peace," said Hjalmar emotionally as the other members cheered, "than to stop the most massive wave of destruction in the history of mankind."

Dr. Kissinger's sharing of the prize with North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho, the committee felt, was only fair as the Bombs for Peace Program was a "joint effort."

"While Dr. Kissinger provided the bombs," one member put it, "let us not forget that Le Duc Tho provided the targets."

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THE NOBEL PRIZE has, of course, enhanced Dr. Kissinger's reputation as a peacemaker. Indeed, he immediately called Arab and Israeli diplomats into his office and generously suggested America achieve peace in the Middle East precisely the way it had done so in Vietnam.

Reports that the Arabs and Israelis fled screaming from the room were termed "grossly exaggerated."